Put Down the Banjo

Ted Kuster

I IV I
Out in the dry and dusty street the desperado stood
II V
His fearsome weapon in his hands, he was up to no damn good
I IV I
The sheriff looked around him, his bravest men had fled
V I
He stared that ruffian in the eye and this is what he said:

IV I
Put down the banjo, before somebody gets hurt
IV II V
Put down the banjo, just throw it in the dirt
I IV I
Set it down real gentle now and calmly back away
V I
Put down the banjo, and live another day

My wife she said those dreaded words, Honey, we've got to talk.
In her eye there was a tear. In her hand there was a rock.
She said, I've put up with a lot, stuck with you through the years,
But I'm not gonna live my life with earplugs in my ears.

Put down the banjo, before somebody gets hurt
Put down the banjo, and for God’s sake, put on a shirt
Lock it in its case and put it back up on the shelf
Put down the banjo, or I'll do it myself

Can't you think of something else that you could do instead
Like video games, or model trains, or lying around in bed
You could take karate, or teach yourself to whittle
But do us all a favor and don't take up the fiddle

Put down the banjo, before somebody gets hurt
Put down the banjo, or you don’t get no dessert
Pack up all your banjos, take 'em downtown and return 'em
Put down the banjo, or I'll burn 'em

Put Down the Banjo -- Extra verses

Now it came to pass that Cain walked up to Abel and said "Dude,
Stop picking that old thing around the house, it's kinda rude."
Abe said, "You're just jealous cause you always play so slow, bro."
Next day Cain was all alone, tuning up his dobro.

Put down the banjo, before somebody gets hurt
Put down the banjo, just throw it in the dirt
Do unto your brother, but don’t criticize his playin’
Put down the banjo, I’m just sayin’

You may have heard the story of Czar Nicholas the Second
His people might have loved him if it wasn’t for his pickin’
When he put down his banjo and took up the mandolin
The workers and the peasants had to rise and do him in.

Put down the banjo, before somebody gets hurt
Put down the banjo, keep your head up, stay alert
Take everything you have and hand it over to Rasputin
Put down the banjo... you’re darn tootin’